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on precedent. The result has been some forty thousand decisions, in the English and American courts—a heterogeneous mass of logic, sound and otherwise, into which the modern lawyer must delve, and from which, if he can, he must separate the real law. Consequently, all new text-books on the subject are of interest both to practitioner and student. But it seems to us that the Hornbook system, admirable as it may be for the more firmly established branches of the law, is not peculiarly adapted to the subject of this book. The settled principles of law and equity, which form the subject of each section, are, at least in the present state of insurance, either so general as to lose their special applicability, or else not so *well* settled as to be entitled to the guaranty of authenticity which the black-letter type in the Hornbook series usually gives. Aside from this, the treatment is exceptionally thorough and good. The beginning and development of the law of insurance is given more space than most text-books give to similar portions of their subjects. This is wholly justified by the nature of the case. It is, moreover, interesting to trace with some minuteness the gradual adaptation of a reluctant law to the development of a great and beneficial branch of commerce.

On the whole, we think the work as admirable a treatise on insurance as can be compiled at present, in this form.

G. S. A.

Current Law. George Foster Longsdorf, Editor-in-Chief. Keefe-Davidson Co., St. Paul, 1904. Vols. I and II, Sheep, pages 3,403; Vol. III, No. 1, Paper, pages 320.

The rapidity with which reported cases are multiplying necessitates that lawyers should have the means of quickly and accurately discovering the authorities bearing upon the point in question. Encyclopedias and digests are tools with which the field is cultivated. The publications of this nature at the disposal of the profession are becoming numerous, and their multiplicity, while inevitably leading to the survival of the fittest, incidentally results in little advantage to the practitioner. Hence it is that we would be loath to welcome any addition to the list that did not tend materially to remedy the defects of former plans and mold and develop their advantages into a homogeneous system.

The practical value of an encyclopedia cannot accurately be foretold. It is only by continually testing its capacity to meet the exigencies of various cases that its intrinsic merit can be judged. A consideration of *Current Law*, however, has left a very favorable impression. It is constructed in the text-book or encyclopedia style—an advantage over the ordinary digest in that it opens a path in the "wilderness of single instances" by a lucid statement of principles, the facts of each case being subordinated to the foot-notes. Where there are several cases turning upon the same principle, the facts differentiating the

same are stated fully and concisely, with no unnecessary repetition. The arrangement is scientific but simple, and only an examination can enlighten one as to the ease and rapidity with which it can be used. A distinctive feature of the work is that each subject is newly written every year, parts being published monthly, making it possible to cover all the new cases practically to the date of publication—a marked improvement over the common date system. Thus "Corporations" is up to date when published, instead of its latest case being then a year old. References are constantly made to volume, page and even footnote, so that one having once found the object of his search may be brought quickly and surely to analogous matter. A topical index brought down to date accompanies each issue; black-letter catch-words are inserted in the notes; and the carefully-worked-out sub-analysis is not only indicated by change of type in the text and by running headlines, but at the beginning of each topic is given its complete sub-analysis referring by page to the matter contained therein. The annotations are remarkably exhaustive; thus in the subject "Nuisance," page 1063, we find five lines of text supported by sixty-six different cases, the facts of each case being differentiated. A minor criticism can be made in respect to the unequal distribution of matter, the second volume containing nearly double that of the first, making it unsightly and cumbersome. We presume the publishers will provide against this in the future.

As an exhaustive and superior treatment of current case law and as an supplement to any of the existing encyclopedias, this publication should prove of decided value to the profession.

J. C. D.

An Outline of the French Law of Evidence. By Oliver E. Bodington of the Inner Temple. Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London, 1904. Cloth, pages 199.

Mr. Bodington, through his experience with French courts, is thoroughly qualified to present a very interesting and instructive treatment of his subject, and we must feel that he has succeeded both in arousing interest and in imparting instruction. The first half of the book is devoted to an effective analysis of the French rules of evidence; the last third gives in parallel columns the articles of the codes referred to in the body of the work, and a translation of them. It is, however, the chapter which forms the brief intermediate portion which most challenges the attention. In this chapter, a bold and at the same time thoughtful comparison of the French and English systems, the author puts forth a plea for the modification of some of the essentials of each. With arguments of no little weight, based mainly on the practical working of French methods, he advocates, on the one hand, the abolition of the jury in civil cases in the Anglo-Saxon countries, accompanied by an appropriate liberalizing of the rules of evidence, and, on